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NSC BRIEFING 4 January 1955

SINO-BURMESE RELATIONS AND AFRO-ASIAN MEET

**NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.**

- I. Peiping apparently successful in coloring views Premier Nu.
  - A. Before China trip, Nu often worried over ChiCom intentions Burma.
  - B. Upon return, publicly extolled Peiping, held that ChiCom assurances noninterference was triumph Burma's neutral policy.
  - C. Said ChiComs possess "a high code of honor," will keep their pledges if Burma "does not turn stooge of any power or play tricks in international politics."
  - D. Reaction contrasts with Nehru's who returned convinced China's rulers both doctrinaire and ruthless.
- II. Peiping's prestige, influence in Burma rising rapidly.

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- A. Chou's "five principles", which merely "coexistence" idea split five ways, becoming household terms.
- B. Burma's taking Chinese, Orbit goods for rice, willingness inaugurate air service, restore highway traffic, means Communists getting highly exploitable economic toehold.
- C. Burmese okay for ChiCom consulate at Lashio--southern terminus of the Burma Road--means Peiping outpost in area where already actively subverting minority groups.
- D. Nu's "do-nothing" promise makes Western help in improving Burmese defenses difficult.

III. Burmese somewhat taken in by Peiping line, but expediency dictating their position.

- A. ChiComs were evasive on all sensitive issues raised.

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Burmese Communist leaders.

C. Observed that Chinese frontier maps--  
which claim large chunks of Burma--  
were not official, <sup>BUT</sup> would not so state  
publicly.

D. Stalled on future status Overseas  
Chinese.

IV. Burmese still interested in US economic aid.

A. Nu hopes visit US, although (on advice  
Burmese ambassador) has decided not  
seek early invitation.

V. Underlying factor governing Burma's rela-  
tions with Peiping is fear.

A. Since Geneva, Burma had <sup>5</sup> lost hope of  
Western support for strong stand  
against Peiping--therefore had <sup>5</sup> to  
"play safe."

VI. In any event, ChiComs found Burma effective  
champion for Peiping participation in coming  
Afro-Asian conference.

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A. Chou told Nu China wanted come.

B. Nehru--undoubtedly informed by Nu--  
changed attitude indifference to one  
warm support for conference.

C. At Colombo power meet, Nu plugged for  
ChiCom invitation--to point of re-  
fusing attend if not.

VII. After slow start, Afro-Asian meet now  
rolling. - *Indonesia - April ?*

A. Indonesian originated idea year ago,  
as prestige move.

B. Colombo powers first cool.

C. Feelers brought generally indifferent  
reactions from Arab, African states.

VIII. At Colombo powers' meeting last week, con-  
ference set for end April '55.

A. Stated purposes:

1. Show desire African, Asia nations  
work for common aims, increase  
mutual understanding.

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2. Discuss social, economic, cultural

problems, other problems of  
special interest--racial, colonial  
issues.

3. Discuss contribution Afro-Asian  
nations to maintenance world peace.

B. Invited--

1. From Africa: Central African  
Federation, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gold  
Coast, Libya, Liberia, Sudan--

2. From Middle East-South Asia:  
Afghanistan, Ceylon, India, Iran,  
Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Nepal,  
Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria,  
Turkey, Yemen--

3. From Far East: Burma, Cambodia,  
Communist China, Indonesia, Japan,  
Laos, Philippines, Thailand, North  
Vietnam, South Vietnam.

C. Some talk before conference of inviting  
Australia and New Zealand, but no

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action taken.

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D. Japan invited to counter reaction to

ChiCom bid.

E. After meeting, Colombo delegates explained:

1. USSR out because politically part of Europe.
2. South Africa out due racial views.
3. Nigeria considered, but no one at conference knew its status.
4. Israel qualified but excluded because of Arab sttitude.
5. Korea in "fluid state" (Nehru noted Indochina same, but Colombo powers have "special responsibility" there).
6. No one at conference raised question of inviting Formosa.

NB only 2 Commie (Red China, Viet Nam)  
3 Strong Neutralist (India, Indonesia, Burma)

-6-

19 More or less pro US

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